

Appln No. 09/692,747
Amdt date March 9, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 23, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-45 remain pending. Claims 1, 16, 29 and 37 are amended.

Applicants again respectfully request that the Examiner consider the Information Disclosure Statements dated March 28, 2001, May 2, 2001, March 8, 2002, and August 6, 2003. For convenience, Applicants are submitting copies of the same herewith. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the cited references and return signed copies of the associated Forms 1449 / PTO/SB/08A/B with the next communication.

Claims 1-5, 7-19, 21-31, 33-39 and 41-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sudia, U.S. Patent 6,009,177 (hereinafter "Sudia"). Claims 6, 20, 32 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sudia in view of Ote et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,023,506 (hereinafter "Ote"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims are respectfully requested.

Amended independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations "a user interface to inform the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and to give the user an option of re-registering the user on a second computer, if the second computer used by the user to access the system is not the same as the first computer used for registering the user," and "a re-registration user interface for requiring the user to re-register if the user selects the option of re-registering on the second computer, wherein the re-registration user interface requires the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on-line system."

Sudia does not teach or suggest the above limitations. Rather, as the Examiner notes "Sudia specifically requires a user to possess a valid escrow certificate to access the system," thus, registration with the escrow service to obtain a certificate is necessary if any computer that a user is using does not possess such a certificate. See Sudia, col. 21, lines 15-54 and pages 3 and 4 of the Office action mailed March 17, 2005. The system of Sudia encrypts or decrypts

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only if a valid sender certificate and a valid recipient certificate are input and a valid Message Control is generated by the sender and validated by the recipient. (Col. 11, lines 3-15). There is no suggestion in Sudia about "a user interface to inform the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and to give the user an option of re-registering the user on a second computer, if the second computer used by the user to access the system is not the same as the first computer used for registering the user."

Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Sudia about "wherein the re-registration user interface requires the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on-line system." Rather, in the system of Sudia, as the Examiner mentions in the Office action, if the certificate is not valid, the user needs to obtain a new certificate from the escrow center and thus requiring the user to go through the entire process of obtaining a new certificate and re-entering all of the information that was required to obtain the first certificate.

As a result, amended claim 1 is patentable over Sudia. Amended claim 29 includes similar limitations and therefore is also patentable over Sudia.

Amended independent claims 16 and 37 include, among other limitations "informing the user that the user is already registered on the first computer and providing the user with an option of re-registering the user on the second computer," and "requiring the user to re-register by asking the user to enter only a portion of user information required for registering the user with the on-line system."

As explained above, Sudia does not teach or suggest the above limitations. Accordingly, amended claims 16 and 37 are also patentable over Sudia.

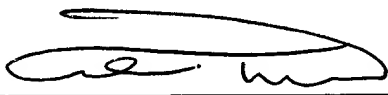
In short, independent claims 1, 16, 29 and 37 recite a patentable subject matter over cited references. Dependent claims 2-15, 17-28, 30-36 and 38-45 depend from claims 1, 16, 29 and 37, respectively and include all the limitations of their base claims and additional limitations

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therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable, as being dependent from an allowable independent claim and for the additional limitations they include therein and their allowance is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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